

LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE


URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLE LEVER

FOR THE YEAR

1940

WM. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B., Ch. B.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1940

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)

DR. WILLIAM MOTTERSHEAD M.B., Ch.B.

Albert Place,
Little Lever.
(Telephone FARNworth 39)

Sanitary Inspector (Joint appointment Surveyor and
Sanitary Inspector)

CHARLES PERCY SIMPSON.

Council Offices,
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(Telephone FARNworth 637)

OTHER OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk and Accountant

WILLIAM KELLY

Surveyor (Joint appointment Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector)

CHARLES PERCY SIMPSON

Collector

JAMES C. COLLINGE (to 2nd August 1940)
CYRIL BIRMINGHAM (from 9th Sept. 1940)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Urban District of Little Lever for the year 1940

To the Chairman and Members of the
Little Lever Urban District Council

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval my Report as Medical Officer of Health, on the health and sanitary conditions of Little Lever for the year ended December 31st 1940.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The area of the township is 808 acres. The estimated population is 4,512 as against 4,755 in 1939 and 4,944 in the 1931 census. There are 1,525 inhabited houses in the area as against 1,537 in 1939, and 1,429 in the 1931 census. This gives a rate of about three persons per house. The rateable value of the district is £19,437 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £74. Social conditions are fairly good. Unemployment on account of the war, has considerably diminished. The district is largely industrial in character, the chief industries being coal-mining, cotton spinning and weaving, paper making, ebonite manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, and dairy farming.

Births

The number of live births registered in 1940 was 60, an increase of one on the figure for 1939. This figure is made up of 27 males and 33 females. There was one illegitimate birth, a female. The birth rate is 13.2 per 1,000 of population as against 12.4 for 1939 and a mean rate of 13.6 for the previous five years. The birth rate for England and Wales for 1940 was 14.6.

Still-Births.

The number of still-births in 1940 was 2 (one male and one female) and is equal to a rate of 32 per 1,000 of total births as against 92 in 1939.

Deaths

The number of deaths from all causes was 54 (29 males and 25 females)

This is a decrease of 23 on the figure for 1939. The crude death rate for 1940 is 11.9 per 1,000 of population, as against 16.3 for 1939, and a mean crude death rate of 13.1 for the previous five years. The adjusted death rate for 1940 is 12.0 (comparability factor 1.01). The death rate for England and Wales for 1940 was 14.3.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths of children under one year in 1940 was 2, both males, as against 3 in 1939. This gives a rate of 33 per 1,000 of live births, as against a rate of 50 in 1939, and a mean rate of 48 for the previous five years. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1940 was 55.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths in 1940, thus giving a nil rate per 1,000 of total births, as against 15.4 in 1939, and a mean rate of 3.07 for the previous five years. The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales in 1940 was 2.16 per 1,000 of total births.

Tuberculosis

New cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1								
1 to 5								
5 to 10								
10 to 15								
15 to 20		1						
20 to 25		1						
25 to 35			1					
35 to 45								
45 to 55					1			
55 to 65		1						
65 and up.								
TOTALS	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0
		3		1		1		0

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System in 1940 was 0.22 per 1,000 of population, as against 0.42 in 1939, and a mean rate of 0.53 for the previous five years.

Midwifery Services.

There are no resident midwives in the district. Three midwives on the County Council list of midwives engaged by the County Council, reside in Farnworth and are available for the Little Lever area. All three are on the telephone and have cars. No difficulties have arisen in obtaining their services when required, and they have all rendered efficient service to the district. A number of women were admitted to Townleys Hospital, Farnworth for their confinements, but owing to the War, the number was less than in 1939.

General Provision of Health Services for the District.

Clinics and Treatment Centres	Situation	Provided by
Maternity and Child Welfare	Little Lever	Lancs. C. C.
Tuberculosis	Farnworth	" "
School Clinics	Little Lever	" "
Venereal Diseases	Bolton	" "

Infectious Diseases.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during 1940:-

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Measles	92	97	189
Whooping Cough	8	13	21
Scarlet Fever	1	4	5
Diphtheria	4	5	9
Acute Lobar Pneumonia	1	4	5
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia		1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		3	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1		1
Totals	108	128	236

Causes of Death

The following table shows the deaths from all causes in 1940:-

Cause	Males	Females
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	
Influenza		1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	
Cancer of all other sites	1	
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	2	3
Heart Disease	9	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System		2
Bronchitis	5	3
Pneumonia		2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	
Appendicitis		1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	
Nephritis		2
Congenital Malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases	2	
Suicide	1	1
All other causes	2	2
Totals	29	25

Cancer and Malignant Disease.

The death rate from Cancer and Malignant Disease in 1940 was 0.44 per 1,000 of population as against 2.12 in 1939, and a mean rate of 1.74 for the previous five years.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1940.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases sent to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital	Total death
Measles	189	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	21	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	5	1	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	9	9	Nil	Nil
Acute Lobar Pneumonia	5	Nil	Nil	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	Nil	Nil
Totals	233	13	Nil	2

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No cases of this disease were notified during 1940.

District Nursing Association

The District Nursing Association employs one Nurse, and is affiliated to the County Nursing Association. As in previous years, the members of the Committee have worked hard to keep the Association on a sound basis, and have had loyal support from the general public. The nurse has given devoted service and has done excellent work.

Hospital Accommodation

The Council have an agreement with the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board for the reception and treatment of cases of Infectious Diseases. Beds are available, as required, at the following Institutions:-

Small-pox Hospital, Ainsworth	- for cases of Small-pox
Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury.	- for other infectious diseases.

Both Hospitals are controlled by the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, and the retaining fees payable by the Council are:-

Small-pox	- £20 per annum
Other diseases-	£25 per annum

An ambulance is provided by the Joint Board for the conveyance to the hospitals of patients suffering from Infectious Diseases.

Voluntary Hospitals Arrangements

The Council subscribe the following amounts:-

Bolton Royal Infirmary	- £10.10.0 per annum
Manchester & Salford Medical Charities	- £30. 0. 0 per annum
Little Lever District Nursing Association	- £13.13.0 per annum

The Council have an agreement with the Borough of Farnworth whereby the latter provide an ambulance for conveying patients from the district to the various hospitals.

Adoptive Acts in Force

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890: Part 4.
Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907: Parts 2 and 4.
Public Health Acts 1925, Part 2, except Sections 22 and 25.

Sanitary Accommodation

The types of sanitary accommodation, with the number of each type at the end of 1940 were as follows:-

Privy Middens	- 17
Closets attached to these Middens	- 24
Full Closets	- 4
Waste Water Closets	- 99
Fresh Water Closets	- 1450
Movable Ashbins for Refuse	- 1443
Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens)	- 48
Number of Houses on Water Carriage system	- 1511

During 1940, there have been no conversions of privy middens, owing to the indefinite postponement of all Slum Clearance Schemes. The Council do not contribute to the cost of conversions, and property owners have invariably carried out the desires of the Council without any trouble. The sewers in the back streets are laid under Private Street Works, and conversions are carried out under Section 36 of the Public Health Act 1875.

The number of premises visited during 1940 for the purpose of sanitary inspections, was 83. The number of nuisances discovered was 66. Of these, 37 were abated as a result of 46 informal notices, leaving 29 outstanding.

Bakehouses, Dairies and Cowsheds have all been periodically inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Factories and Workshops have also been periodically inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Water Supply

The water supply is from the Irwell Valley Water Board's mains, and is constant. All houses are directly connected, the number of houses with piped supplies being 1,525. No extensions were carried out during 1940.

Sewage Disposal

The method of sewage disposal during 1940 has again been quite satisfactory. Sewage is treated by settlement tanks and by percolating filters. There have been no extensions during the year. The Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee's Inspectors have tested the effluent periodically during the year, and have found it satisfactory. One area, Leadbeater Fold, is without a proper drainage system, but is scheduled for demolition under a Clearance Order, under the Housing Act.

The flushing of sewers and cleaning of manholes has been carried out periodically.

The arrangements for scavenging and removal of house refuse were quite efficient during the year, except for the week after the severe snowfall at the end of January, when the state of the roads prevented the usual collections of refuse being made. A covered wagon collects house refuse once a week, and refuse from privy closets once a fortnight. The refuse is disposed of by tipping on waste land.

Smoke Abatement.

The Council are members of the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. The time limit for the emission of black smoke is two minutes per hour. There are 15 factory and works chimneys in the district. Observations were taken from time to time during 1940, but no legal proceedings were necessary.

Shops

Shops are inspected from time to time and as occasion demands. No action was necessary in any case.

Housing

Owing to war conditions, all housing plans have had to be shelved, and no new houses have been erected during 1940.

Number of houses owned by the Local Authority

1. Under 1919 Scheme	113
2. Under Housing Act 1923	11
3. Under Housing Act 1924	122
4. Erected during 1936	30
5. Erected during 1937	38
6. Erected during 1938	34
	<u>348</u>

Housing Conditions

Housing conditions are good on the whole, and the general standard of the houses is satisfactory. There are about 200 houses below the general standard, the main defects being dampness, low ceilings and old age. There is now no overcrowding to be found. The Council have a scheme for the erection of more houses as soon as conditions return to normal.

Town Planning

The Council are members of the Bolton and District Regional Planning Committee, and representatives from the Council attend the meetings and work in close harmony with the Committee, whilst the Council carries out, as far as possible, the desires of the Committee.

Milk Supply

The Farms and Dairies in the district have been periodically inspected, and have been found to be in a clean condition.

Meat and Other Foods

There are no slaughter houses in the district,

all slaughtering being carried out in abattoirs in the neighbouring districts. Frequent visits are paid to all butchers' shops in the district. All have been kept in a satisfactory state.

Disinfection.

The number of houses disinfected after infectious diseases was 16. The method of disinfection is by Formaldehyde Gas.

Public Health Laboratory.

During 1940, eleven swabs from suspected cases of Diphtheria were sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester. Of these, five were found to be positive.

General Observations

The general health of the district during 1940 was, in view of War conditions, quite good. The birth rate still compares unfavourably with that for England and Wales (13.3 against 14.6) although it shows a welcome increase on the figure for 1939. The number of deaths in 1940 was considerably less than in 1939, with the result that the death rate compares very favourably with the rate for England and Wales (12.0 against 14.3)

There was an epidemic of Measles in the latter part of the summer, followed by a number of cases of Whooping Cough. Fortunately, the cases were all of a mild type, and no deaths or serious complications were encountered.

Owing to the War, no progress has been made with sanitary improvements during 1940.

The radical changes introduced by the War, such as black-out, Rationing and Air-Raid Warnings do not appear to have had any deleterious effect on the health of the vast majority of the inhabitants. The rationing of food has not produced any cases of under-nourishment and air-raids and air-raid warnings have not, so far, produced any cases of mental disturbance.

The district is still in need of modern, low-rental cottages, and a fair number of houses are still standing, which will have to be dealt with under Clearance Orders as soon as conditions permit.

The Clinics and Treatment Centres provided by the Lancashire County Council have, as before, been most useful. The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, in particular, has been well attended, and has been much appreciated.

The Bowling Green and Playing Field continue to be well patronised by the adults and children of the district, and to justify all the expenditure to which the Council have been put.

W.MOTTER SHEAD. M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

November 17th 1941.

